

GENERAL ORDERS, }
No. 166. }

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, Oct. 23, 1862.

It appearing that large quantities of government property have been unlawfully disposed of by non-commissioned officers and soldiers, in violation of law and of the Army rules and regulations, it is therefore ordered: That all United States officers commanding posts shall seize all military clothing, blankets, shoes, arms, equipments, and other such supplies, which have been issued by the government to soldiers, and lost or disposed of by them. And it shall be incumbent on any person, not a soldier, who may have any such property in his possession, to prove that he has lawfully acquired possession thereof.

Such property, when seized, will be turned over to a United States Quartermaster, and his receipt in duplicate taken therefor, one of such receipts to be transmitted to the Quartermaster General. The seizure will also be reported to the Adjutant General.

All Provost Marshals appointed by the Department will assist in recovering to the United States this description of public property.

Commanding officers of companies are reminded that it is their duty not only to cause soldiers who are guilty of violating the law forbidding the sale, destruction, or negligent loss of clothing, arms, and public property, to be charged on the Muster Rolls with all the articles improperly lost or disposed of, but also to enforce such other punishment as the nature of their offence may demand.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

L. THOMAS,
Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL:

Assistant Adjutant General.